

REMARKS

DRAWINGS

Applicants note the Examiner's indication that the drawings currently on file are acceptable.

CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 were previously presented. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 10-22 are allowed, and that Claims 3-5 and 24 are objected to. In the present amendment, Claim 23 has been amended, and no claims have been cancelled.

Applicants have added Claim 26 based on the most recent Office Action. Claim 26 comprises Claim 3 plus Claims 1 and 2 (from which Claim 3 depended), and therefore does not constitute any substantive amendment. Similarly, Applicants have added Claim 27 based on the most recent Office Action. Claim 27 comprises Claim 4 plus Claims 1 and 2 and 3 (from which Claim 4 depended), and therefore does not constitute any substantive amendment.

Applicants also have amended Claim 5 based on the most recent Office Action. Claim 5 now comprises the previous Claim 5 plus the previous Claim 1 (from which Claim 5 had depended), and therefore does not constitute any substantive amendment. Further regarding Claim 5, Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Claim 5 is allowable (see paragraph 4 p. 3, Office Action) if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (which amendment Applicants have made above), but did not expressly comment on that allowability further in the following paragraph 5 (p. 4, Office Action). In case the Examiner intended to add any further explanation regarding that Claim 5, Applicants

respectfully bring it to the Examiner's attention; absent same, Applicants will proceed with the understanding that Claim 5 as amended herein is simply allowable.

Applicants also have amended Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 23, and 25, to even more clearly define Applicants' invention.

Accordingly, after entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-27 will be pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,495,763 (issued to Eichmann et al.).

As noted above, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 23, and 25 (and thereby any claims depending from those amended claims), and respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections. In other words, of the above-referenced rejected claims, Claims 1, 8, 9, 23, and 25 are independent. Accordingly, once patentability of those claims is established, all claims depending from them (including the other pending claims that presently stand rejected) are likewise allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that Eichmann is directed to a different problem than is Applicants' invention, and that Eichmann does not address the problem solved by Applicants' invention.

As noted in Applicants' previous amendment, Applicants' invention is directed to "forming" or "running in" the dielectric on cables, so that the signal communication over those cables can occur in a more desirable/consistent manner. As stated in Applicants' Abstract, for example, "[t]he present invention relates generally to methods and apparatus of connecting and

communicating signals between electrical devices. More particularly, the present invention relates to biasing a dielectric with an electrical or electrostatic potential to reduce undesirable electrical properties of the material such that signal quality between the electrical devices is enhanced.”

Further in this regard, “[a] preferred aim of any arrangement of [Applicants’] biasing apparatus within the cable would be to enable the cable to reach a “steady state” dielectrically based on independent (non-signal) biasing, so that after reaching that steady state, transmitting signal along the cable would have little, if any, noticeable effect on the quality of the signal being transmitted . . .” (Applicants’ original disclosure at page 21, lines 14-18).

Applicants even noted in their application that, “. . . in almost all cables that do not include the present invention, the ‘run-in’ condition must be re-established (the cable must be ‘re-formed’) each time the electrical device is turned back on.” Applicants’ Detailed Description, par. 21. That point of distinction appears to apply even to Eichmann’s cables.

Another paragraph of Applicants’ Detailed Description summarizes this point of distinction in another way:

“The imposition of energy on the cable’s dielectric thus preferably occurs even when the devices and cable are not in use and even when the cable is not connected to any components. In certain applications of the invention, the bias can even be applied far in advance of a consumer’s purchase of the cable or other device, and the run-in or “forming” of the cable or device can occur completely before the consumer/user even connects the cable or device for the first time. The biasing will continue automatically even when the user turns off his audio/video system, so long as the battery or other biasing source continues. As mentioned above, and as explained further below, for embodiments using batteries, those presumably will need to be replaced periodically (although not too often, as there is no current being drawn from the batteries).” Applicants’ Detailed Description, par. 24.

In contrast to Applicants' inventions, Eichmann apparently has no intention of biasing any dielectric (other than the inherent biasing that occurs over time in any prior art cable, if the cable is in use). Instead, Eichmann is directed to issues arising from "inductive reactance" and "capacitive reactance" (see, for example, Eichmann, col. 1, l. 55-65). Eichmann discloses to provide a negative/return wire that is "larger" than the positive/signal, so that "the resistance on the return line is lower (than that of the signal) thereby providing a faster pathway for electrons to travel." Eichmann, col. 1, l. 50-55.

Using on Claim 1 as an example, Eichmann does not appear to teach or disclose any "bias impressing means including at least one conductor which is not a conduction path for a signal between the first and second electrical devices."

In fact, Eichmann never mentions the word "bias" or "biasing". Eichmann only mentions the word "dielectric" twice:

"Conductor insulation material 3 is preferably a low dielectric material such as polypropylene or Teflon..." (col. 4, l. 1-2).

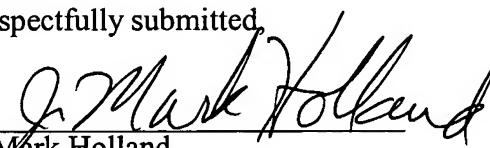
"Parts shown are signal core 23, return core 24, coaxial shield 25 and dielectric insulation material 26." (col. 5, l. 4-5).

Accordingly, in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, it is thought that the application, including Claims 1-25, are now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes it would help resolve any remaining questions or issues regarding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (949) 718-6750.

Respectfully submitted,

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